



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Substitute Bill No. 1242**

\* \_\_\_\_\_ SB01242HEDF IN032205 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S COMPETITIVE  
ADVANTAGE IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 4-124ff of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2005*):

4 (b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the  
5 Knowledge Economy to promote the formation of university-industry  
6 partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based workforce  
7 innovation and competitiveness and advise the award process (1) for  
8 innovation challenge grants to public postsecondary schools and their  
9 business partners, and (2) grants under section 2 of this act. The  
10 council shall be chaired by the director of the Office of Workforce  
11 Competitiveness and shall include the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
12 and Management, the Commissioners of Economic and Community  
13 Development, [and] Higher Education and the [Labor Commissioner]  
14 executive directors of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated and the  
15 Connecticut Development Authority and four representatives from the  
16 technology industry, one of whom shall be appointed by the president  
17 pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
18 speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be  
19 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and one of whom shall

20 be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Office of Workforce  
22 Competitiveness shall establish a grant program to provide a flexible  
23 source of funding the creation and generation of talent in institutions  
24 of higher education and, with appropriate connections to vocational-  
25 technical schools and other secondary schools, for student outreach  
26 and development. Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded  
27 to institutions of higher education and may be used to:

28 (1) Upgrade instructional laboratories to meet specific industry-  
29 standard laboratory and instrumentation skill requirements;

30 (2) Develop new curriculum and certificate and degree programs at  
31 the level of associate, bachelor, master's and doctorate, tied to industry  
32 identified needs;

33 (3) Develop seamlessly articulated career development programs in  
34 workforce shortage areas forecasted pursuant to subdivision (9) of  
35 subsection (b) of section 4-124w of the general statutes in collaboration  
36 with vocational-technical schools and other secondary schools and  
37 institutions of higher education; and

38 (4) Support undergraduate and graduate student research projects  
39 and experimental learning activities.

40 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish a grant  
41 program to provide funding for the advancement of research  
42 capabilities and research opportunities. Grants pursuant to this  
43 subsection shall be awarded to institutions of higher education and  
44 may be used to:

45 (1) Recruit eminent faculty in basic and applied research;

46 (2) Leverage federal funding for research centers; and

47 (3) Provide pilot funding for faculty to develop initial research data  
48 for the development of larger grant funding proposals and to nonstate

49 granting entities, such as federal agencies.

50 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish a grant  
51 program to provide funding for the promotion of collaborative  
52 research applications between industry and institutions of higher  
53 education. Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to  
54 institutions of higher education and business entities may be used:

55 (1) To improve technology infrastructure by advancing the  
56 development of shared use between institutions of higher education  
57 and business entities of laboratories and equipment, including, but not  
58 limited to, technology purchase, lease and installation, operating and  
59 necessary support personnel and maintenance; and

60 (2) As matching grants for joint projects between an industry and a  
61 university. The office shall structure the matching grants to provide  
62 two rounds of funding annually and shall do outreach to companies.  
63 The matching grant part of the program shall include, but not be  
64 limited to, (A) one-to-one matching grants not to exceed one hundred  
65 thousand dollars, with in-kind match allowed for small and mid-sized  
66 companies, (B) involvement of a competitive process with outside  
67 reviewers using as key criteria (i) the demonstration of commercial  
68 relevance, and (ii) a clear path to the marketplace for any innovations  
69 developed in the course of the research, and (C) an aggressive  
70 marketing campaign through business organizations to raise industry  
71 awareness of university resources.

72 (d) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish a grant  
73 program to provide funding for the promotion of commercialization of  
74 research done by institutions of higher education. Grants pursuant to  
75 this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of higher education  
76 and business entities and may be used to:

77 (1) Provide funding to verify the technical and commercial  
78 feasibility of early stage discoveries by institutions of higher education  
79 that are disclosed or patented to accelerate and increase the likelihood  
80 that the technology will be successfully commercialized; and

81 (2) Provide matching support for smaller institutions of higher  
82 education to allow for contracts with independent technology transfer  
83 organizations to provide specific service to support specific needs.

84 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Grants under section 2 of this  
85 act shall be awarded based on the following order of priority:

86 (1) Grants that focus on (A) advanced product development,  
87 including, but not limited to, nanotechnology, (B) translational  
88 medicine, including, but not limited to, stem cell research, (C)  
89 advanced information services, (D) biomedical engineering, (E)  
90 medical or insurance information technology, and (F) other technology  
91 areas giving this state a competitive advantage, including, but not  
92 limited to, health care service delivery systems and fuel cell energy  
93 systems;

94 (2) Grants that promote multiinstitutional collaboration across  
95 public and private institutions of higher education;

96 (3) Grants that involve multiple activities, such as furthering talent  
97 generation, enhancing research capabilities, promoting applied  
98 research collaborations and advancing the commercialization of  
99 research of institutions of higher education; and

100 (4) Grants that include matching funds from institutions of higher  
101 education or business entities.

102 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) For the purposes described in  
103 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
104 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
105 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in  
106 the aggregate ten million dollars.

107 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the  
108 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the  
109 Office of Workforce Competitiveness for the purpose of funding grants  
110 under section 2 of this act.

111 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the  
 112 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not  
 113 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and  
 114 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission  
 115 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the  
 116 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized  
 117 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to  
 118 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
 119 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
 120 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
 121 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be  
 122 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
 123 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is  
 124 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
 125 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,  
 126 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this  
 127 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and  
 128 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the  
 129 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and  
 130 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of  
 131 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual  
 132 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State  
 133 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become  
 134 due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	4-124ff(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

**HED** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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